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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown from 25 April to 6 May 1994, adopted a Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. 1/ Paragraph 128 of the Programme of Action requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on "action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action and in that regard to invite them to consider the establishment of focal points for the implementation of the Programme of Action". The present report has been prepared in response to that request. In compiling the report, the Secretary-General was requested to pay special attention to the action taken by the regional commissions to implement the Programme of Action, particularly at the subregional level.

2. The request of the Global Conference for a report on action taken by the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action reflects the importance attributed by the international community to cooperation at the international level to support the sustainable development of small island developing States. While Governments will be primarily responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action, international cooperation to support and complement such efforts will be essential. To this end, the Programme of Action highlights the key role the United Nations system has to play, in close cooperation with other international, regional and subregional organizations. The Programme of Action also notes that, for small island developing States, regional and subregional efforts will be important instruments for collective action.

B. Structure and methodology of the report

3. The report is divided into four sections. In addition to providing a brief outline of its origin, chapter I sets out the methodology used in compiling the report. Chapter II provides details of the plans, strategies and programmes adopted by the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action. In accordance with the terms of the request calling for the report, that information is listed by organization and agency. Chapter III reviews the institutional arrangements either already in place or envisaged to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, while chapter IV outlines the action taken or envisaged by the regional commissions.

4. Institutional arrangements and the activities of the regional commissions are identified in the Programme of Action as priority areas and therefore merit separate attention in the report. Moreover, this approach is consistent with the requirement that the report should review progress made in implementing a number of recommendations in the Programme of Action concerning regional and subregional cooperation, and that it should contain a section on action taken by the regional commissions to implement the Programme of Action, particularly at

the subregional level. Chapter IV of the report thus covers both substantive plans and programmes and institutional arrangements with respect to the activities of the regional commissions. These activities are not covered with respect to the regional commissions in chapters II and III. Some brief concluding comments are made at the end of each chapter.

5. In order to gather the information needed to compile the report, the Secretariat invited the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to submit details of measures taken or envisaged by them to implement the Programme of Action. Organizations and agencies were specifically requested to provide information on institutional arrangements that might be put in place in addition to information on plans and strategies to implement the Programme of Action, bearing in mind that it had only recently been finalized. Organizations and agencies were also requested to identify any programmes already in place, perhaps developed following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), that implement aspects of the Programme of Action.

6. The majority of organizations approached responded to the Secretariat's request (see annex) and the report has been compiled on the basis of the information provided by those organizations and agencies. In responding to the Secretariat's request for information, a number of organizations and agencies pointed out that, in the light of the short time that had elapsed since the Global Conference was held, they had yet to conduct or complete a comprehensive review of their activities against the background of the Programme of Action. Such responses were, therefore, to be considered of an interim nature, and it is important that the report be read in that context. It should not be seen as a definitive description of the plans and programmes of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action. Moreover, the relevant inter-agency mechanism dealing with matters of sustainable development, the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development, has only undertaken to date a preliminary consideration of the Programme of Action, and has indicated that it will review it at a later session after the Programme of Action has been considered by the General Assembly.

7. The report should also be seen in the context of the level of assistance provided by the United Nations system to support sustainable development in small island developing States as a proportion of the total level of donor assistance to those States. The report of the Secretary-General on current donor activities 2/ showed that for the biennium 1991-1992 multilateral assistance accounted for about 27 per cent of assistance to small island developing States in the areas covered by the Programme of Action, with the United Nations system accounting for about 12 per cent of the overall total. This confirms the position stated in the Programme of Action that, while the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system can play an important role in implementing the Programme of Action, within their respective areas of expertise and mandates, this role will essentially involve supporting and supplementing national efforts.

II. PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

A. United Nations

1. United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

8. Since the conclusion of the Global Conference, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development has been actively engaged in undertaking several Conference follow-up activities in the initial implementation of the Programme of Action. The Department has collaborated with a number of United Nations organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the preparation of the three reports being submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, as requested in paragraphs 105, 106 and 128 of the Programme of Action.

9. The Department prepared the present report drawing on inputs from organizations of the United Nations system. It also collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the latter's preparation of the two feasibility studies in respect of SIDS/NET, an information network designed to facilitate the exchange of information among small island developing States (A/49/414), and SIDS/TAP, a small island developing States technical assistance programme (A/49/459).

10. In addition to the above activities, and consistent with the mandate given to it in paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action to provide Secretariat support for both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Department has been undertaking an initial analysis of the Programme of Action in order to provide effective support for its implementation.

11. Given the multisectoral character of the Programme of Action, and the relationship of many of its substantive themes to those in Agenda 21, 3/ consideration is being given to how best to integrate into the work programme of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department, the activities that would be required to be undertaken in its implementation. Furthermore, steps are being taken by the Department to ensure that the outcomes of the Global Conference are effectively integrated into the thematic work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which would be the central intergovernmental body for monitoring and reviewing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

12. In this connection, it should be stated that the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, held in New York from 16 to 27 May 1994, while undertaking an initial consideration of the report of the Global Conference, welcomed the various provisions of the Programme of Action and called for adequate support to be given in the implementation of the substantive priority areas of the Programme. In addition, the inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development at its fourth session held a preliminary discussion on the various possibilities for assigning the responsibilities of task managers for the follow-up to the Conference. The Inter-agency Committee agreed that the issue would be reconsidered at a later session in the light of the decisions

taken on the outcome of the Global Conference by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

13. Chapter XV of the Programme of Action addressed the issue of the essential requirements for the implementation of the Programme of Action. It recognized that, while Governments would be primarily responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action, international cooperation would be essential to support and complement such efforts. With this in mind, the Department will also be considering the best approaches for the mobilization of financial resources from both the public and the private sectors to meet the sustainable development goals and priorities of the small island developing States.

14. The outcome of the Global Conference has been reflected in the most recent revisions to the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, particularly in the new programme 46, Sustainable development, to be carried out by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (see A/49/6 (Prog. 46)).

2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

15. The Programme of Action includes programmes and projects to be considered for implementation by national Governments, regional institutions and the international community that are either closely linked to ongoing activities within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), or are in fields where UNCTAD appears to have a comparative advantage in carrying out island-specific, in-depth studies and research or in providing technical expertise.

16. Relevant activities that UNCTAD plans to carry out in the future comprise the preparation of policy-oriented studies including up-to-date information of high priority to island economies. These studies would focus on transport and transshipment by sea and air and trade problems arising from smallness, remoteness and constraints in transport and communications; the formulation of proposals to assist island developing countries to overcome the main obstacles to their development efforts; and the provision of technical and advisory services to the Governments concerned, addressing information flows and support to intergovernmental consultations and negotiations.

17. With the Programme of Action in mind and in response to General Assembly resolution 47/186 of 22 December 1992, UNCTAD recently contributed to the report of the Secretary-General on a development strategy for island developing countries (A/49/227) for submission to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under which a strategic framework for future action has been designed to alleviate problems intrinsic to islands.

18. UNCTAD is considering undertaking further activities in the areas of science and technology, human resource development, regional economic cooperation, institutional capacity-building and measurement of the vulnerability of small island developing countries when its capacity is strengthened, as recommended in paragraph 127 of the Programme of Action.

3. United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

19. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) recognize the urgent need to take action in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States through the implementation of the Programme of Action. To this end, joint UNEP and Habitat activities are giving priority to translating the Programme of Action into mechanisms that can help small island developing States put in place policies and strategies to achieve sustainable economic and human development.

20. The development challenges being faced by small island developing States can best be tackled through an integrated approach to the management of human activities and their supporting resource base. The relatively high ratio of coastline to land area and the proportionally large exclusive economic zones of small island developing States means that they are essentially coastal entities. In view of this, and the failure of sectoral management programmes to deal effectively with the rapid depletion of coastal resources world wide, integrated coastal area or "island" management is considered to be a necessary framework within which to promote, plan, coordinate and rationalize the sustainable development of the natural resources of small island developing States.

21. In recognition of the above, as well as UNEP's mission to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations, and the research, capacity-building and direct support activities of Habitat at the country level on human settlements development issues, UNEP and Habitat are making a joint effort to promote integrated island management in small island developing States. The current and planned activities and programmes of UNEP and Habitat are set out below within each of the priority areas of the Programme of Action.

(a) Climate change and sealevel rise

22. The current and planned activities of UNEP within this priority area include (a) a number of country and site-specific case studies in the south-west Pacific, indo-east African and Caribbean regions on the vulnerability of selected small island developing States to the effects and socio-economic implications of climate change and sealevel rise; and (b) the development and application of a decision-support system which will allow policy analysts to anticipate, explore and counter the risks associated with climate change and sealevel rise in small island developing States.

23. These activities aim to assist small island developing States to formulate comprehensive strategies and measures to facilitate adaptation to climate change and sealevel rise through the development of management tools and plans. In this respect, they are also closely related to the priority area of the Programme of Action entitled "Coastal and marine resources", as they support the development of concepts, methodologies and tools for integrated coastal zone management.

(b) Natural and environmental disasters

24. UNEP and Habitat have established a joint task force to address disaster-related issues in the natural and built environment. Natural and environmental disasters and, more specifically, the unique vulnerability factors of small island developing States, are important concerns of the task force. The task force is expected to result in the establishment of quick-response mechanisms to disaster situations.

25. Habitat has acquired considerable experience in post-hurricane rehabilitation activities. Major emphasis has been placed, however, on prevention activities. In this respect, a set of hurricane resistant building codes and standards, prepared for the eastern Caribbean in 1993, is expected to be introduced in as many Caribbean small island developing States as possible, as well as in other regions.

(c) Management of wastes

26. The current and planned activities of UNEP within this priority area include (a) the assessment and control of pollution through the adoption of policies and measures designed to mitigate or eliminate marine and coastal pollution problems; (b) the establishment of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals/personal computer data bank containing information on hazardous chemicals for assessment of the impact of chemicals on human health and the environment, in particular the aquatic environment; and (c) the preparation of status reports from selected small island developing States leading to the establishment of an information system on municipal solid-waste management, including a case-study in which the information system will be established and tested.

27. Activities in the assessment and control of pollution aim to increase the capability of small island developing States from the Mediterranean, indo-east African, Caribbean and Pacific regions to assess and control marine pollution from land-based activities through the promotion and adoption of measures to contain site-specific problems. The pollution assessment and control activity is also closely related to the priority area entitled "Coastal and marine resources" as it will contribute to the development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management.

28. The current and planned activities of Habitat include research on municipal solid-waste management, focusing on the stimulation of linkages between the public, private and informal sectors. The research will include documentation of past experience and the development of innovative approaches to waste management through specifically designed demonstration projects. Resource mobilization for the demonstration projects will be targeted to include selected small island developing States. Current activities in the Asia-Pacific region have included research on promotion of waste recycling and reuse aimed at strengthening small-scale waste recycling industries, thus combining the opportunity for income generation and waste management.

29. The operational activities of Habitat will include a human settlements analysis and needs assessment in selected Pacific atoll countries (Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands), which will focus on critical issues related to the upgrading of human settlements, within which sanitation and waste management will figure prominently.

30. A joint initiative of Habitat, UNDP and the World Bank, carried out by the Urban Management Programme regional office for Asia and the Pacific at Kuala Lumpur, is currently initiating the Pacific islands country consultations on urban management and environmental sanitation services in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Western Samoa. A second phase is envisaged in 1995 to incorporate Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

31. Already initiated and due to continue in the coming years is technical assistance on waste management to regional and national institutions in Caribbean small island developing States, extended through the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Urban Management Programme. Priority areas will include minimization of waste, which has particular relevance to small island developing States, and maximizing waste recycling and reuse.

32. Habitat will continue its development of appropriate technologies to improve waste management in small island developing States where capital and operation and maintenance resources are limited. It is currently undertaking an initiative aimed at the demonstration of methods of treating the organic portion of municipal solid waste in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be of particular relevance to the Caribbean islands. Impact assessment for the Habitat-executed solid-waste collection and disposal project for the city of Mal in Maldives and for the inter-island solid-waste transport system is to be undertaken shortly.

33. The control of pollution, in particular waste water management for tourism development, has been identified as a major problem by the recent UNEP/Habitat review on waste management in small island developing States. Further research will focus on development of waste-water treatment and disposal technologies and, in particular, the contribution they can make to integrated water resources management. This is of particular relevance to small island developing States where freshwater resources are often severely limited.

(d) Coastal and marine resources

34. The current and planned activities of UNEP within this priority area include: (a) protection and management of marine and coastal areas through integrated coastal area management, including a number of demonstration or pilot projects in integrated "island" management in which marine and coastal resource issues are incorporated into the development planning process of selected small island developing States; (b) the strengthening of information management capabilities through the development of regional Global Resource Information Database (GRID) nodes, provision of technical advisory services and environmental assessments; (c) capacity-building of national institutions in the collation of data and information, and development and use of database systems and coastal resource mapping; and (d) capacity-building for the control of

coastal erosion through the acquisition of techniques, national capabilities and self-reliance.

35. Activities for integrated coastal area management support the development of national self-reliance in matters related to integrated development and environmental planning, and assist small island developing States with the development of methodologies and implementation of integrated coastal zone management. They are being carried out in the Atlantic-Caribbean, Mediterranean, south-west Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. These activities also provide a framework in support of activities in the areas of information management, database systems and coastal resource mapping, and coastal erosion. The information management activities will stimulate the use of and facilitate access to sources of information and data among small island developing States of the Caribbean region through the strengthening and integration of existing networking mechanisms for the management of marine and coastal resources. Activities related to database systems and coastal resource mapping and to coastal erosion are being carried out in small island developing States of the indo-east African region. All the coastal and marine resource activities are also relevant to the priority area of the Programme of Action entitled "National institutions and administrative capacity", as they contribute to the strengthening of institutional arrangements and administrative capacity to integrate environment and development.

36. Environmental assessment activities described below under the priority area of the Programme of Action entitled "Science and technology" are also relevant to this priority area as they support the development of mechanisms for the gathering and sharing of information for the assessment of coastal and marine resources, including the regional nodes of GRID.

37. The current activities of Habitat related to coastal management are described below under the priority area of the Programme of Action entitled "Land resources".

(e) Freshwater resources

38. The current and planned activities of UNEP within this priority area include a diagnostic study on environmentally sound, integrated management of freshwater resources within the context of sustainable development. The initial focus is on the identification, quantification and analysis of technical, scientific, social, legal, financial, political and other factors affecting the quality and quantity of freshwater resources in selected small island developing States. The activities support national, regional and international action, including development and protection of watershed areas and development of integrated national water plans; strengthening of national capacities for decision-making between competing demands for water resource allocation; development and strengthening of initiatives for regional cooperation; and improved access to environmentally sound technologies for the catchment, production, conservation and delivery of fresh water. The activities will place an emphasis on (a) the major impact of tourism on the sustainability of resources; (b) the relatively greater impact of pollution on human water uses in small island developing States; (c) sustainability of freshwater resources; and (d) human and technical capacity-building to support achievement of these

specific objectives. The activities are also closely related to the priority areas entitled "Management of wastes" and "tourism resources", as they will help to ensure (a) that waste management in small island developing States is compatible with long-term sustainability of freshwater quantity (supply) and quality (pollution); and (b) that development and management of the tourism industry are mutually supportive on a national, regional and international level.

(f) Land resources

39. The operational activities of Habitat systematically address issues related to land resources in small island developing States in the areas of land use and land management, planning and development control legislation, and environmental impact assessment of physical development. The focus of Habitat programmes in this field is on guiding national development through physical development plans that balance competing uses of land and other natural resources, introduce environmental concerns into planning and development control and develop updated planning legislation. Coastal management issues are a priority within the development of natural and local area plans. Particular attention is given to the establishment of national and subregional Geographical Information Systems.

(g) Energy resources

40. The current and planned activities of UNEP within this priority area include (a) the establishment of a centre on energy and environment to provide technical support for professionals from developing countries, including small island developing States, working on energy issues; and (b) the establishment and dissemination of a computerized tool on the utilization of biomass energy, including land use requirements and impact, air pollution and human health effects. The energy activities will support the establishment of research capability in the area of energy, including support to research, development and utilization of renewable sources of energy, and will assist in effective monitoring of energy resources, especially biomass.

(h) Tourism resources

41. The operational activities of Habitat comprise a number of national projects in the Caribbean, where tourism development is a component of national spatial development plans. These are described above under the priority area dealing with land resources.

(i) Biodiversity resources

42. The current and planned activities of UNEP within this priority area include (a) development of a regional strategy for the conservation and management of coral reefs of the indo-east African region and methodologies for the rapid assessment of the status of coral reef resources, including their biodiversity; (b) management of specially protected areas and wildlife in the Caribbean; (c) conservation of marine mammals in the south-west Pacific, Mediterranean, indo-east African and Caribbean regions; (d) biodiversity country studies in support of the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity; and (e) assistance to enable small island developing States to

participate in international intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of international legal instruments. All these activities are also closely related to the priority area entitled "Coastal and marine resources", as they will contribute to the development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management in small island developing States of the south-west Pacific, Mediterranean, indo-east African and Caribbean regions.

(j) National institutions and administrative capacity

43. The current and planned activities of UNEP within this priority area include (a) the application of economic analysis and policy instruments for sound environmental management and sustainable development; (b) capacity-building for planning environmentally sound development; and (c) development of national legislation and institutions, and training in environmental law to enhance the capacity of small island developing States in environmental policy, law and administration. These activities involve small island developing States in the Caribbean, west African, west Asian and Pacific regions. Some activities aim to strengthen institutional arrangements and administrative capacity to integrate environment and economic policy in national planning and to ensure capacity to implement Agenda 21 and the decisions of the Global Conference. Other activities assist with the development and enactment of appropriate national regulations and legislation for the implementation of international environmental conventions and agreements.

44. Regional information exchange activities described below under the priority area entitled "Regional institutions and technical cooperation" are also relevant to this priority area as they support the establishment of national information nodes on sustainable development and facilitate the exchange of experience among small island developing States.

45. The current and planned activities of Habitat include strengthening national capacity in (a) preparation of national and local area development plans, (b) development control application, and (c) Geographical Information System application in several small island developing States from the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.

(k) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

46. The current and planned activities of UNEP in this priority area include the development of national and regional capacity to assess and exchange information which will assist decision-makers plan for a sustainable future. They aim to encourage cooperation and collaboration among regional bodies, between the international community and regional programmes, and at the national level. The activities focus on retrieval of the most reliable and accurate environmental information for different user needs.

47. The current and planned activities of Habitat include renewed assistance to regional institutions in the Caribbean region, namely the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), as well as research and academic institutions, through regional/subregional programmes aimed at capacity-building in human settlements development and management.

(l) Science and technology

48. The current and planned activities of UNEP in this priority area include environmental assessment through consultation, institutional capacity-building and servicing, and database support and development, with emphasis placed on spatial information technology transfer through its institutional capacity-building and servicing component. The focus is on human resource development and building institutional capacities to operate management information systems with dedicated spatial data system linkages in support of national and international environmental assessments.

49. Regional information exchange activities described above under the priority area entitled "Regional institutions and technical cooperation" are also relevant to this priority area, as they support the development of appropriate information systems to share experience among small island developing States and ensure access to databases on environmentally sound technologies.

(m) Human resource development

50. The current and planned activities of UNEP in this priority area include integrated environmental management courses for key personnel from the environmental divisions of Governments, industry and business, as well as trainers from tertiary institutions. This activity aims to increase the capacity of small island developing States to deal with environment and development issues. Another activity in the field of education, carried out in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), aims to infuse sustainable development ideas into education curricula and emphasizes the link between environment and social and economic issues at the national level.

51. The current and planned activities of Habitat in this priority area are closely associated with those relating to national and regional institutions. They cover training programmes for advanced academic curricula extended through fellowships and attachments.

52. Habitat has developed a series of tools and instruments designed to assist national and local governments and training institutions to assess institutional and organizational capacity and define needs and priorities for sustainable local development. These tools have been widely disseminated to small island developing States and are used as the basis for capacity-building workshops, seminars and policy consultations, which include participants from small island developing States.

B. Funds and programmes

1. United Nations Development Programme

53. Since the adoption of the Programme of Action at the Global Conference, UNDP has taken a number of initiatives designed to enable it to provide effective support for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

54. In keeping with the specific request contained in paragraph 105 of the Programme of Action, UNDP has carried out, in consultation with representatives of the small island developing States and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, a feasibility study in respect of SIDS/NET (A/49/414), an information network designed to facilitate the exchange of information among small island developing States. The study endorses the feasibility of the concept and has identified the costs and other institutional arrangements that would be necessary in order to translate the concept into a viable programme.

55. Similarly, as requested in paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action, UNDP has also carried out a feasibility study on SIDS/TAP (A/49/459), a small island developing States technical assistance programme, which is seen as an important instrument for operationalizing the Programme of Action. The feasibility study has been prepared on the basis of consultations with representatives of the small island developing States in New York as well as on the basis of two seminars held in Fiji (22-23 August 1994) and in Barbados (23-24 August 1994). It also benefited from inputs from the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The study details the specific activities to be carried out under SIDS/TAP, the cost implications and the associated institutional arrangements to be put in place at the national, regional, interregional and international level. SIDS/TAP is intended to serve as an important framework for orienting the work of UNDP and other organizations in support of the Programme of Action for small island developing States.

56. In addition to the above initiatives, in paragraph 126 of the Programme of Action UNDP was requested to continue to carry out its mandate as the lead agency in organizing United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels and in fostering the United Nations collective thrust in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action through its network of field offices. Consistent with this mandate, the Administrator of UNDP has signed two Capacity 21 projects for the Pacific and the Caribbean respectively, which are intended to continue the previous collaborative efforts between UNDP and donor countries to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable human development. The total budget approved by UNDP for both projects is US$ 1.7 million.

57. The programmes to be carried out under these Capacity 21 projects address four major areas at the national level, namely, (a) assisting small island developing States in the development of national frameworks for sustainable development; (b) improving the capacity of financial planning and investment institutions in small island developing States to reorient their policies and procedures in line with sustainable development objectives and integrate environmental matters into their lending policies; (c) building capacity in the management of land and sea resources; (d) enhancing the capacity of peoples' organizations and involving them in decision-making processes; and (e) developing information and communication networks amongst the islands to share information and valuable experience in the areas of sustainable development. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) will be involved in the implementation of the Caribbean project, which will be executed by the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration. The Pacific project will be executed by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

58. In order to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the implementation of the Programme of Action for small island developing States, the relevant bureaux in UNDP headquarters, as well as country offices covering small island developing States countries, will be requested to develop specific plans for carrying out follow-up action in support of the Programme of Action.

2. United Nations Population Fund

59. In accordance with its mandate as the leading agency in the United Nation system for promoting population programmes in both developed and developing countries, UNFPA has provided technical and financial assistance to the small island developing States. In the implementation of Agenda 21, pursuant to its role as task manager of chapter 5 of Agenda 21, UNFPA pays special attention to the interrelationship between the demographical dynamics and sustainable development of the small island States. In the South Pacific, a special project aimed at integrated population concerns in environmental and development planning is being implemented jointly by UNFPA and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Its future technical assistance programme will be based on the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, taking into account the special conditions of and the problems facing the small island States. In order to provide effective and appropriate technical assistance to the small island developing States, in UNFPA's global arrangements for technical assistance special arrangements have been made in two regions to cater for the needs of those States. In the Pacific region, a special country support team based at Suva, has been established to provide exclusive technical assistance to the region. In the Caribbean, a special subregional field office has been established to provide technical assistance to the small island developing States in that region. UNFPA support concentrates specifically on the expansion of reproductive health and family planning, the promotion of universal education, especially for girls, and the empowerment of women. UNFPA will provide the necessary assistance to the small island developing States.

3. United Nations Children's Fund

60. The response of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to Agenda 21, and by implication to the Programme of Action, is contained in Executive Board decision 1993/14 where the concept of primary environmental care has been developed. That approach seeks to ensure that the basic needs of the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable are addressed, that communities are empowered and that natural resources are managed and used in an optimal manner. Given the special situation of small island developing States, optimizing natural resources is critical to their sustainable development.

61. UNICEF cooperates with 32 small island developing States, at least 9 of which are categorized as least developed, in the support of programmes relating to priority areas such as health services, nutrition and household food security, formal and non-formal education, young child development, safe water

and adequate sanitation, children in especially difficult circumstances, as well as community-based urban and rural services. These programmes are supported by cross-cutting strategies such as social mobilization, empowerment and national capacity-building, reinforced by advocacy and a strong monitoring and evaluation component.

62. UNICEF programme priorities are reflected in the pursuit of mid-decade goals to be achieved by 1995 and in the goals for the year 2000 set at the 1990 World Summit for Children, all of which are included in Agenda 21 (chaps. 6, 18, 25 and 36), and implicitly contained in chapter XIV of the Programme of Action. With the exception of the least developed group, the majority of small island developing States have achieved most of the mid-decade goals. The primary concern now is how to sustain the social gains that have been realized in ecological and economic environments that are becoming increasingly hostile, thus menacing the already fragile environment of the young child. The challenge for small island developing States is to develop appropriate and sustainable models for health care; to address issues such as the purpose and relevance of education; and mitigate the effects of troubling changes in the family structure as more teenagers become unwed mothers, their numbers increasing each year.

63. In the light of the Programme of Action, as well the mid-decade and World Summit for Children goals, UNICEF-assisted programmes for small island developing States will be revisited and refocused. In addition, the issue of children's rights will be addressed as they pertain to children's participation in the implementation of the Programme of Action. For middle and higher income small island States, more emphasis will be placed on advocacy, policy dialogue, technical collaboration, strengthening national and regional bodies and institutions, and sustainability issues to support the implementation of programmes for children.

64. The UNICEF country programme approach can be grouped in four areas of the Programme of Action (management of wastes, freshwater resources, national capacity-building and human resource development), with some ad hoc and advocacy activities in other areas. Advocacy will centre on strengthening the social aspects of the Programme of Action.

65. UNICEF activities in support of the Programme of Action are summarized below.

(a) Climate change and sealevel rise

66. UNICEF will examine the socio-economic implications of this phenomenon on the survival, protection and development of children and will advocate the importance of children's understanding of issues relative to global warming and its effects through education and information activities.

(b) Natural and environmental disasters

67. UNICEF will contribute to the strengthening of early warning systems and the improvement of the cultural and traditional systems of local communities in dealing with disasters. UNICEF emergency assistance will continue to be given when necessary.

(c) Management of wastes

68. UNICEF supports urban and rural sanitation and hygiene education programmes in many small island States. UNICEF has also provided a social sector perspective to a World Bank study on waste management in the Pacific. Support will continue for national capacity-building programmes with attention to training of local level development workers and community workers, especially women and girls.

(d) Coastal and marine resources

69. UNICEF provides support for the organization of local communities and the application of traditional knowledge and management practices in integrated coastal-area-based development. It also promotes appropriate technology for the processing of sustainable fishery resources, the majority of beneficiaries being women, with adequate training and awareness programmes. UNICEF also supports small-scale fish-farming in some small island developing States.

(e) Freshwater resources

70. While drinking water supply coverage is adequate in most small island developing States, it is menaced by groundwater pollution, sinking water-tables and salt-water intrusion. UNICEF will contribute to the adoption of standards, low-cost technologies and the strengthening of monitoring and assessment capabilities, with special attention to the development of community-level indicators and training programmes to permit more community-level input in the management of freshwater resources. UNICEF will also assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation, 4/ which was held at Noordwijk, the Netherlands, in March 1994, as they relate to small island developing States.

(f) Land resources

71. In seeking to address the problems relating to land resources in small island developing States, UNICEF will focus on supporting participation by children and youth in afforestation and reforestation programmes; urban (community-based, bio-intensive) agriculture; credits for women for improved farming and marketing techniques; strengthening traditional systems of food production and use of plants; community management of waste; and education, training and awareness programmes aimed at children and youth.

(g) Energy resources

72. UNICEF will support the introduction and testing of renewable sources of energy and improved management of biomass at the community and household levels. UNICEF will also advocate children's participation in energy conservation through education and awareness programmes.

(h) Biodiversity resources

73. UNICEF will support community efforts in the management and conservation of biodiversity resources as well as the transfer of indigenous knowledge, while reinforcing the valuable contribution of indigenous peoples to the conservation of biodiversity (inter-generational transfer of knowledge, enrichment of school curricula and non-formal education programmes). Children's participation will be supported through education and practical application, as will be youth conservation and women's groups, and other non-governmental organizations.

(i) National institutions and administrative capacity

74. One of UNICEF's main programming strategies is national capacity-building. UNICEF will support many small island developing States in the preparation of national programmes of action for children and in the development of expertise in social planning, policy analysis and formulation, as well as advocate their relevance to the wider application of sustainable development principles so that they are considered jointly with other environmental plans and strategies developed for small island developing States.

(j) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

75. UNICEF will continue to seek to strengthen the capacity of regional institutions in social sector activities in the Pacific, Caribbean and African regions. It will also support the development of appropriate, low cost technologies and enhance technical capacity in relation to the ratification and monitoring of and reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

(k) Transport and communications

76. UNICEF will support the establishment of community rural media through, for example, radio and newsletters.

(l) Human resource development

77. Although the majority of small island developing States have achieved improvements in the health status of their populations, these gains are being eroded by the social stresses arising from economic and ecological pressures. Pursuing the mid-decade goals in the least developed small island developing States will be a strategy to address basic health problems. Sustaining and reinforcing the social gains while combating poverty and environmental degradation will be the approach adopted by UNICEF in the other small island developing States.

4. World Food Programme

78. The World Food Programme (WFP) has historically been involved in assisting a number of small island developing States, including States in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific regions. Many of these States have now reached a stage of development that makes it less appropriate for them to receive the type of assistance that WFP has to offer with its priority on poverty-alleviation

programmes. Several small island States will nevertheless continue to receive some assistance from WFP. This assistance will focus on human resource development and sustained rural development as well as relief in times of emergencies.

5. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

79. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has been supporting drug abuse control measures and initiatives in small island developing States, especially in the Caribbean region, through specific operational activities approved for funding from the Programme's own resources during 1994. Demand reduction efforts have been promoted through training and seminars in treatment and rehabilitation and an expert forum on demand reduction for the Caribbean will be held in the Bahamas in October 1994.

80. A working group on maritime cooperation established in 1993 by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is working on the development of a comprehensive set of principles and specific recommendations to enhance, on a global basis, the implementation of article 17 of the 1988 Convention dealing with illicit traffic by sea. This initiative, which will be part of the report of the working group to the Commission in March 1995, is relevant to paragraph (iv) of section C in chapter X of the Programme of Action, which calls for "closer cooperation to improve national and international measures to combat illicit drug trafficking and money laundering".

C. Specialized agencies

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

81. Follow-up by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the Programme of Action will be based largely on the conclusions and recommendations of the Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 5/ held in Barbados from 7 to 10 April 1992. Paragraph 34 of the Programme of Action notes that these conclusions and recommendations "contain the consensus position of small islands in the agricultural sector". Accordingly, FAO is in the process of incorporating these recommendations into its programmes. Subject to adequate extrabudgetary funding being secured, FAO proposes to organize a second interregional conference in Western Samoa in April 1995 which would formulate capacity-building activities, identify networking arrangements at regional and interregional levels, and propose projects in specific priority areas in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and nutrition.

82. FAO is also involved in providing policy advice to several small island developing States in agricultural sector reviews, and on agricultural trade and agricultural diversification. This advice seeks to achieve three essential goals of sustainable development and rural development: food security; employment and income generation to eradicate poverty; and conservation of the natural resources base and protection of the environment.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

83. UNESCO's competence relates to recommendations in a number of areas of the Programme of Action. At present, all relevant programme units and those field offices of the organization that are directly involved with small island developing States are conducting an analysis of the results of the Global Conference and its implications for the future work of UNESCO. These units have been invited to include in their ongoing activities during the biennium 1994-1995 an explicit response to the Global Conference. Moreover, the contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of the Programme of Action will also be reflected in the preparation of the organization's fourth medium-term plan (1996-2001) and its draft programme and budget for 1996-1997.

84. Priority areas for UNESCO action will be related to the chapters of the Programme of Action dealing with climate change and sealevel rise; natural and environmental disasters; coastal, marine, land, freshwater and renewable energy resources; biodiversity; science and technology; and human resources development. The major international scientific initiatives taken by UNESCO, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the International Hydrological Programme, the Coastal Marine Programme, and UNESCO's natural hazards programme, will be the main instruments for the organization's action related to the environmental and natural resource management issues addressed in the Programme of Action.

85. These international programmes already include activities focused on small island developing States. A major component of them will continue to be specialized training and human resource development. As an immediate follow-up to the Global Conference, the International Hydrological Programme, in cooperation with UNDP and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, organized a workshop in Solomon Islands in June 1994 to identify critical research, training and planning needs for water management in Pacific island countries. The recommendations of that workshop provide valuable scientific and technical guidelines for the implementation in the Pacific region of the section on freshwater resources in the Programme of Action. The Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, at its twenty-seventh session (Paris, July 1994), took note of the Programme of Action and expressed the full support of the Commission for its implementation.

86. In relation to human resource development, UNESCO plans to enhance its cooperation with small island developing States in the field of education at all levels, formal and non-formal. UNESCO's new interdisciplinary and inter-agency cooperation project on environment and population education and information for human development will include specific activities focused on the needs of small island developing States. To address the problem of post-secondary educational opportunities, in March 1994 UNESCO brought together in Cape Verde a group of international experts to review the particular requirements of small island developing States in the areas of higher education and national scientific capacity-building. The recommendations of that meeting are now being reviewed in the light of the Programme of Action.

87. In the area of communication, UNESCO will continue to cooperate with small island developing States in establishing communication structures, including for distance education, in training communicators and in building island production capacities. Under the United Nations World Decade for Cultural Development, UNESCO will continue to help island States to address the cultural dimensions of development. Assistance will focus on the question of how economic development can be managed in a way that also sustains the distinctive social institutions and cultural identities of island people.

3. World Health Organization

88. The Programme of Action provides a basis for strengthening WHO activities in the field of health, environment and development. WHO activities concerning small island developing States emphasize the reduction of water-borne diseases, the rational management of freshwater resources, the sanitary disposal of wastes and the assessment of environmental health impacts of major projects.

89. As a result of the outcomes of UNCED, the World Health Assembly requested WHO to prepare a new global strategy for health and the environment. The Assembly further requested that the strategy should consider the protection of the environment of small island countries in view of the potential serious effects of environmental change on the health of the populations concerned. WHO has prepared an action plan for implementation of the global strategy in which many aspects of the Programme of Action are covered.

90. WHO activities in support of the Programme of Action are summarized below.

(a) Climate change and sealevel rise

91. WHO plans to issue in 1995 a major report on the potential health effects of climatic change, for which WHO will collaborate with Member States and regional and international organizations in coordinating the surveillance and monitoring of key parameters of health impacts of climate change, *inter alia*, the problem as it affects small island developing countries.

(b) Natural and environmental disasters

92. Relevant activities of WHO in this area are directed to supporting countries in the establishment and strengthening of preparedness for and management of health aspects of disasters. A guideline on environmental health measures in emergency situations is being prepared for publication in 1995. The WHO Regional Office for the Americas/Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) has developed a special programme on disaster preparedness, which is being implemented through its subregional office in Barbados.

(c) Management of wastes

93. Management of wastes is a major area of concern for WHO, with particular reference to small island developing States. A series of regional and national workshops has been held to address the problems of hazardous wastes, including

medical wastes, in island settings. WHO has also been involved in organizing and co-sponsoring conferences on island waste management.

94. The storage, collection and disposal of refuse is a priority environmental health problem for small island developing States. In the Caribbean region, WHO is collaborating with countries in developing a solid-waste management plan to ensure the environmentally safe disposal of solid waste. Through the International Programme on Chemical Safety, WHO provides technical material on health aspects of different types of chemicals. This Programme also promotes and supports training and the strengthening of national capabilities. New technology for the rapid assessment of sources of air, water and land pollution is being developed and will be ready in 1995. This technology will be of particular benefit to small island developing States.

(d) Coastal and marine resources

95. WHO is involved with other international organizations through the UNEP-coordinated Regional Seas Programme, emphasizing the health aspects of coastal pollution. The Programme is concerned with the contamination of seafood and coastal bathing areas. WHO is also working to adapt the European health criteria for recreational beaches to other areas.

(e) Freshwater resources

96. Through its regional offices, WHO provides technical cooperation to island countries to improve their capacities for dealing with water supply and sanitation problems. This cooperation includes workshops, training courses and advisory services. WHO is assisting with the formulation of drinking-water standards through the application of its guidelines on drinking-water quality. WHO activities are also concerned with the protection of groundwater from contamination and water resource management issues. WHO is collaborating on the implementation of the Caribbean Basin water management project, now being hosted at the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute.

(f) Energy resources

97. Current activities in this area that are relevant to small island developing States include health aspects of the use of biomass for home heating and cooking and the application of solar energy to support health care.

(g) Tourism resources

98. In cooperation with UNEP, WHO is developing guidelines on the health and environment aspects of tourism. The guidelines will address the special problems of small island developing States in this area. WHO is in the process of implementing a subregional plan of action for environmental health and sustainable tourism development, which was formulated in 1993 by the Regional Office for the Americas in collaboration with the Organization of American States, several subregional institutions and the Governments of the Caribbean.

(h) National institutions and administrative capacity

99. WHO has been collaborating with national health and environmental health institutions in some small island developing States in the development of their technical, human and organizational capacities. Institutions that have benefited from WHO support include those involved with health delivery systems, water utilities and agencies responsible for waste management. An important recent contribution is a WHO/UNDP initiative to promote the incorporation of health and environment considerations into development planning. The initiative consists of activities in approximately 10 countries, including 2 island countries, which will be used to issue a guideline on this topic.

(i) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

100. WHO/PAHO is collaborating with the CARICOM secretariat in the implementation of the Caribbean cooperation for health initiative. There are several subregional institutions receiving support from WHO/PAHO, including the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, the Caribbean Epidemiology Center and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute. Furthermore, WHO/PAHO has been instrumental in creating several subregional mechanisms such as the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, the Caribbean Association of Environmental Health Organizations, the Caribbean Public Health Association and the Solid-Waste Association of the Caribbean, which undertake activities in the health sector.

(j) Science and technology

101. WHO has a number of activities that contribute to strengthening science and technology capacity in developing countries, including small island developing States. An example is the Global Environmental Technology Network, which was established to link scientists and institutions concerned with environmental control and prevention activities. Information on various techniques is being distributed through this system, which also facilitates the training of personnel.

(k) Human resource development

102. WHO is developing programmes on training and education in environmental health which will benefit small island developing States. These programmes will involve support for national human resource planning and the provision of training on environmental health management and pollution control, environmental health impact assessment, environmental epidemiology, and human exposure assessment.

4. World Bank

103. The World Bank will support the implementation of the Programme of Action by providing funding for activities in the following six broad areas:

(a) Human resources development: education, health, nutrition and women's development;

(b) Sustainable infrastructure: transportation, telecommunications, tourism infrastructure and sustainable power development;

(c) Waste management, sanitation and water supply: these investments benefit human health and welfare and also yield high returns in terms of economic productivity and ecosystem protection;

(d) Strengthened environmental management: capacity strengthening for environmental assessment, policy formulation and enforcement;

(e) Natural resources management: development of new policies towards fisheries, forestry and land-use planning that merge ecological, productivity and social considerations. The Bank is funding such "new generation" projects in small island States in the fisheries, forestry, agriculture and mining sectors;

(f) Policy reform: financial and technical assistance for policies that promote a vibrant private sector, undistorted markets, efficient government structures, and taxes and prices that favour people and the environment.

104. Between 1991 and 1993, the World Bank provided financing of around $1.5 billion to 23 small island developing States through both Bank and Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects. The focus of these projects are consonant with provisions in the Programme of Action in matters related to climate change, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, energy efficiency, including renewable energy sources and related technologies, waste management, biodiversity, regional institutional cooperation, technical assistance and monitoring. The Bank is also engaged at the working level in a coordination effort related to a draft paper on initiatives for regional action on Caribbean environment issues and hosted a meeting on the regional action plan with Caribbean and donor Governments in June.

5. International Monetary Fund

105. The substantive areas of the Programme of Action lie outside the immediate mandate of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, in the context of its discussions with island member countries during consultations and/or use of Fund resources discussions, IMF will continue to pay close attention to their environmental and other concerns as reflected in the Programme of Action.

6. International Civil Aviation Organization

106. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has a specific interest in chapter XII of the Programme of Action entitled "Transport and communications", particularly paragraph (i) of section B of that chapter. The organization has been involved in several projects in the Pacific and African regions involving small island developing States. ICAO will provide additional technical expertise to enhance the capability within the South Pacific Forum secretariat to meet the technical advisory needs of Forum member countries and to assist the Forum secretariat in preparing funding proposals and donor

mobilization. ICAO is also having discussions with the Asian Development Bank on the creation of a Pacific airports facility project and is providing assistance with the development of aviation legislation.

107. In relation to activities in the African region, ICAO has a civil aviation purchasing service agreement with Cape Verde, under which it assists the airport authority to purchase spare parts and equipment. ICAO is assisting with the preparation of a civil aviation code in the Comoros and is providing financial management assistance and training in Sao Tome and Principe.

108. With respect to quarantine issues referred to in chapter XII of the Programme of Action, Annex 9 (Facilitation) to the Convention on International Civil Aviation 6/ contains a number of relevant provisions. The eleventh session of the Facilitation Division, to be held at Montreal, Canada, in May 1995 will be considering, inter alia, disinfecting of aircraft.

7. International Telecommunication Union

109. As the Programme of Action has only recently been adopted, a substantial part of the ongoing activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) relevant to small island developing States were conceived and adopted through its own programmes or under the framework of Agenda 21. ITU will promote the development and modernization of national and international telecommunication networks and services with the objective of promoting socio-economic development in small island developing States.

(a) Natural and environmental disasters

110. The range of communications needed for disaster mitigation include specialized telecommunications and associated information technologies in remote sensing, radar and telemetry, broadcasting and other media, meteorology, as well as communications for disaster logistics management, early warning systems and public education. ITU will cooperate with small island developing States and other organizations concerned, under the aegis of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to exploit fully telecommunication potential to avert disasters and save life and property.

(b) Transport and communications

111. ITU is engaged in activities in the following areas relevant to this chapter:

(a) Efforts are being made to improve all types of communication facilities, including public, broadcasting and maritime communications;

(b) Regional planning and studies are being undertaken along with other regional action;

(c) The application of appropriate communications technologies is being closely examined in conjunction with other United Nations organizations, notably UNESCO and UNDP;

(d) ITU continues to seek access to financial and technical resources for telecommunication development;

(e) Regional studies are being undertaken to address research, development and training;

(f) ITU is promoting dialogue between telecommunications carriers and Governments, in addition to assisting with legislation, liberalization and privatization matters.

(c) Science and technology

112. ITU is largely concerned with the transfer of telecommunication technology to small island developing States and coordination of any research and development activities that may lead to faster transfer of environmentally sound technology.

(d) Human resource development

113. The development and management of human resources has been accorded a high priority within the technical cooperation activities of ITU. Activities implemented for small island developing States include workshops and seminars on organizational development, computer-based training and manpower planning. A number of projects are in the process of being developed for the countries of the Pacific and Caribbean regions.

8. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

114. A large number of small island developing States are contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and have participated actively in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The GATT secretariat has been assisting them to this end and will continue to do so in implementing the results of the Uruguay Round, having regard in particular to the provisions of differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries. The strengthening of rules and the extension of their coverage to new areas such as textiles, agriculture and services, among others, as well as the creation of the appropriate institutional framework to monitor, implement and enforce the agreed disciplines with the establishment of the World Trade Organization, are of considerable importance to all participants. They are, moreover, especially meaningful to developing countries in support of their efforts towards achieving sustained economic growth and development.

9. International Maritime Organization

115. The principal means by which the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulates international shipping from the viewpoint of maritime safety and the prevention of pollution is through the adoption of conventions, codes and guidelines at the global level. Requests from IMO member States for assistance in ratifying and implementing IMO conventions and codes are dealt with through the integrated technical cooperation programme of IMO, which is largely funded

from extrabudgetary sources. Under this programme, IMO supports participation by representatives from small island developing States in specialized courses on maritime topics.

116. IMO maintains several posts in the field. Efforts are currently being made to establish regional maritime coordination networks in eastern and southern Africa, and in the South Pacific, along similar lines to those in place for Latin and Central America. A number of small island developing States would benefit from these new networks. At the national level, IMO places emphasis on human resource development through the award of fellowships and the conduct of workshops, seminars and training courses. This emphasis is of particular relevance to small island States in the wider Caribbean where a US$ 5 million GEF project on the collection and disposal of ship-generated wastes is presently being implemented by IMO.

10. World Meteorological Organization

117. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has plans and programmes in nine of the substantive areas of the Programme of Action, which are summarized below.

(a) Climate change and sealevel rise

118. A major programme of WMO relevant to small island developing States is the World Climate Programme, which involves climate data collection, climate monitoring and applications. WMO is also a co-sponsor of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is responsible for scientific assessments on climate change. The activities of WMO are tied to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 7/ The role and responsibility of WMO for effectively implementing the Framework Convention relate to basic data, greenhouse gas inventory, vulnerability and impact assessment, adaptation (water resources, agriculture, forestry), mitigation, education and training, information and awareness, research, and technical and international cooperation. Specific programmes and activities geared to small island developing States include:

(a) The production of an information video "Paradise in danger", which focuses on the potential effects of climate change and sealevel rise on small islands;

(b) The establishment of a facility in Hawaii to monitor sealevel rise in the Pacific;

(c) A climate change detection project that provides regular assessments and authoritative statements on the interpretation and applicability of databases for the detection of climate change on global and regional scales;

(d) A climate system monitoring project that provides information on large-scale climatic fluctuations through the routine publication of the Climate System Monitoring Monthly Bulletin and the Global Climate System Review, issued on a biennial basis;

(e) A project designed to give users a computerized data-management capability;

(f) A data rescue project, which aims to assist countries with the preservation, management and use of climatic data from within their own territory.

(b) Natural and environmental disasters

119. The activities of WMO are geared to natural disasters through its tropical cyclone and hydrology programmes, the Global Atmosphere Watch, and through its involvement in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. WMO has five tropical cyclone regional bodies whose membership comprises a large number of small island developing States, most of which are prone to tropical cyclones because of their geographic location. The aims of these regional bodies include mitigation against the effects of natural disasters through the provision of effective early warning systems, transfer of appropriate technology to small States, and training in scientific and disaster preparedness measures. These regional bodies support national efforts in natural disaster mitigation, preparedness and response.

120. WMO's plan of action for the International Decade includes three special demonstration projects, namely, the tropical cyclone warning system for the south-west Indian Ocean, comprehensive risk assessment, which will evaluate natural disasters of various types, and a system for technology exchange for natural disasters. WMO is also promoting research activities on tropical meteorology in connection with the vulnerability of tropical regions to meteorological natural disasters such as tropical cyclones and droughts.

121. WMO has established the Global Atmosphere Watch as an environmental observation system to ensure systematic gathering of data world wide according to comparable and clearly defined measuring criteria. The network of stations involved monitor the chemical composition of the atmosphere and related physical characteristics, information which improves understanding of the behaviour of the atmosphere and its interactions with the oceans and biosphere. Data from the Watch has already been used to establish "phase-out dates" for usage of harmful substances to prevent further destruction of the ozone layer. In the aftermath of disasters such as oil fires, and nuclear accidents or natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, analysis of data from the Watch can and has been used to assess climatic effects.

(c) Freshwater resources

122. WMO has a programme of activities in support of the collection and analysis of hydrological data in small island States. It has also intensified its activities in the field of water-quality monitoring, with emphasis being placed on technical guidance and assistance in water-quality assessment and management. In conjunction with WHO and UNEP, it has initiated a programme on regional training workshops for water-quality monitoring.

123. As part of its follow-up to UNCED, WMO is involved in the establishment of a world hydrological observing system to measure and study the aquatic

environment. This system, which will include the collection of data on both the quantity and quality of water resources, is being developed on a regional basis. Given that the system will be based on satellite communications, it should be possible to operate the data collection networks within island communities, where they should greatly increase the effectiveness of existing monitoring systems.

(d) Energy resources

124. WMO supports the research, development and utilization of renewable sources of energy, such as biomass, hydropower, solar, wind and ocean waves and ocean thermal energy conversion. These sources are in ready supply in many small island developing States, and programmes to develop solar and wind energy farms, for example, receive technical support from WMO. Savings in energy use can be achieved through planning and building in harmony with the climate and WMO is providing guidance to Governments in this area using methods and techniques developed within the framework of various projects, such as the tropical urban climate experiment.

(e) Tourism resources

125. WMO is working closely with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in the development of environmental indicators and guidelines to support sustainable tourism, with attention being paid to the case of small island developing States. One aspect of this development relates to the mitigation of the impact of natural disasters in tourism areas and, together with WTO, WMO is currently finalizing a handbook on natural disaster reduction in tourist areas.

(f) National institutions

126. WMO supports the national meteorological and hydrological services of small island developing States in programme and project planning. To facilitate this activity, WMO has three regional offices set up for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific.

(g) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

127. For many small island developing States, problems in the fields of meteorology and hydrology are most efficiently solved through regional and subregional approaches. The operations of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, based in Barbados, is a good example of this. Members of that organization also operate a "radar fence" for hurricane surveillance and warning and WMO is assisting with the modernization of this radar network.

128. As a direct contribution to developing countries, including small island developing States, WMO has designated a number of regional/specialized meteorological centres to provide specialized information and guidance in areas normally beyond the capabilities of small island States. WMO also cooperates closely with a number of regional intergovernmental bodies with strong links to small island developing States, including the Indian Ocean Commission, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

(h) Science and technology

129. WMO supports the transfer of technology to small island developing States through regional arrangements or by encouraging and facilitating bilateral arrangements between developed countries and small island States. Through its various operational and research programmes, WMO supports the involvement of personnel from small island developing States in scientific activity.

(i) Human resource development

130. The education and human resource development programmes of WMO are generally geared to help small island developing States through regional training institutions and nationally and regionally based specialized training activities, in addition to training and education fellowships. WMO fellowships for studies in meteorology and operational hydrology have been awarded to candidates from a number of small island developing States.

11. World Intellectual Property Organization

131. Within the framework of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) development cooperation programme related to intellectual property, WIPO will continue to provide assistance to small island developing States, aimed at providing basic or specialized knowledge of the law, the administration, enforcement and use of intellectual property, and of patent documentation and information.

132. At the request of Governments of small island developing States, WIPO will cooperate in the formulation of new national laws and regulations and in the creation or strengthening of national intellectual property offices. WIPO will also assist these Governments or private sector entities with efforts to increase skills in negotiating contracts concerning the acquisition of technology of foreign origin. Special attention will be given to technologies that are both environmentally sound and capable of advancing the country's goals for social and economic development.

12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

133. The activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) relating to small island developing States are set out in a technical paper it submitted to the Global Conference in Barbados entitled "Sustainable industrial potential for small island developing States: flexible adjustment and the search for opportunity with special reference to utilization of marine resources". UNIDO programmes and technical activities cover several areas of the Programme of Action, particularly management of wastes, coastal and marine resources, land and energy resources, and biodiversity resources. In addition, the areas of science and technology and human resource development correspond directly to several of UNIDO's core organizational objectives. UNIDO is providing a cluster of integrated services to small island developing States directed towards industrial information, the promotion of regional cooperation mechanisms, technology management and industrial investment promotion.

D. Conclusions

134. The responses outlined above indicate that the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system are already involved in implementing several aspects of the Programme of Action or are in the process of developing plans and programmes to do so. In this regard, several factors are worthy of note. First, a number of organizations indicated that the activities they are undertaking which are relevant to areas of the Programme of Action have been conceived under the framework of Agenda 21. This is not surprising, given the close correlation between UNCED and its outcomes, notably Agenda 21, and the Global Conference. There were, however, some exceptions to this. FAO, for example, noted that its follow-up to the Programme of Action will be based on the outcomes of the Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 5/ held in Barbados in April 1992. The Programme of Action endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of that Conference. In other cases, the plans and programmes of United Nations organizations and agencies relevant to the implementation of the Programme of Action are an integral part of the broader programmes of those bodies which derive from their particular mandates.

135. A second factor to be highlighted concerns the nature and scope of the activities being undertaken in support of the Programme of Action. While some activities are directly related to a particular substantive area of the Programme of Action, for example climate change, others are cross-sectoral in nature, encompassing several substantive areas. For example, UNEP/Habitat and the World Bank indicated that their programmes reflected a broad, integrated approach to sustainable development with an emphasis on capacity-building measures and coastal and land-use management. In relation to the scope of programmes being implemented, several United Nations agencies and organizations, including UNEP/Habitat, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO and WMO, are involved in activities relevant to many substantive areas of the Programme of Action while the work of other agencies, for example, ITU, ICAO, IMO, WIPO and UNIDO, is much more focused, reflecting their more limited mandates. There are, however, still some priority substantive areas of the Programme of Action, of central importance to small island developing States, in which United Nations organizations do not appear to be making specific contributions. These are, particularly, the areas of transport and communications, tourism and, to some extent, energy resources. Additional efforts would need to be made by relevant organizations of the system to formulate and undertake activities in these substantive areas if the aims and objectives of these parts of the Programme of Action are to be achieved.

136. As noted in the introduction to the present report, a number of organizations and agencies indicated that they are still in the process of reviewing their programmes and activities in the light of the Programme of Action. In addition to undertaking the feasibility studies on SIDS/NET and SIDS/TAP requested in the Programme of Action, for example, UNDP has requested relevant country offices and headquarters staff to prepare specific plans to support the implementation of the Programme of Action. UNEP, UNESCO and UNICEF are also reviewing their plans and programmes relevant to small island developing States.

137. The responses draw attention to several new initiatives taken by United Nations organizations and agencies to implement aspects of the Programme of Action. UNDP, for example, proposes to implement two Capacity 21 projects in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, aimed at promoting capacity-building in both the governmental and non-governmental sectors. UNCTAD recently completed a paper that sets out a framework for action for island States to deal with the unique trade problems they confront. UNEP/Habitat have also jointly developed a number of new initiatives to support the Programme of Action.

138. The report of the Secretary-General on donor activities in small island developing States for the period 1991-1992 2/ showed that the assistance received by these States was heavily concentrated in the areas of national institutions and administrative capacity, human resource development and land resources. That report concluded that eight of the substantive areas of the Programme of Action received less than 5 per cent of the total assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources. The responses submitted by organizations and agencies for the present report suggest that this imbalance has been redressed to some degree in the intervening years, at least with respect to the activities of the United Nations system. This development undoubtedly reflects the increased importance attached to sustainable development issues at both the national and the international levels. The reviews of the Programme of Action planned for 1996 and 1999 respectively should present the opportunity for a more accurate assessment to be made of the nature and magnitude of this trend.

III. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. United Nations

1. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

139. At the Headquarters level, the responsibilities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and follow-up to the Global Conference will be carried out by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action states that it is essential for the follow-up to the Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, that a clearly identifiable, qualified and competent entity within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations should be put in place to provide secretariat support for both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. Essentially, this entity would carry out four broad functions, namely, (a) provide substantive secretariat support to intergovernmental and inter-agency processes related to monitoring, review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action; (b) act as a liaison or focal point for Governments and organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system on matters related to the follow-up to the Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action; (c) prepare reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant bodies on the implementation of the Programme of Action; and (d) provide support, as appropriate, to other activities emanating from the Programme of Action.

140. It is envisaged that the entity to be established within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in response to paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action will become the focal point within the Department for undertaking the functions outlined above. In this connection, the Secretariat is cognizant of the concerns expressed by a number of government delegations during the Global Conference regarding the preliminary response of the United Nations on the question of resources likely to be made available in establishing the entity, and has been giving reconsideration to the issue in the light of these concerns. Detailed information on the related institutional set-up and resource requirements will be provided to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly in the usual manner, that is to say in a statement of programme budget implications, at the time when the report of the Global Conference is being considered in the relevant Main Committee of the Assembly.

141. In the intervening period since the conclusion of the Conference, the nucleus of the secretariat of the Conference has been maintained and placed within the Division of Sustainable Development, utilizing the resources that had been approved by the General Assembly through the end of 1994 for that purpose.

2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

142. The Programme of Action recommends that UNCTAD's capacity be strengthened to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action. In the interim, UNCTAD will seek to implement the Programme of Action utilizing existing institutional arrangements.

3. United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

143. In recognition of the importance of the Global Conference, UNEP and Habitat took the initiative in 1993 to establish Focal Points within the two organizations with respect to the Global Conference and its follow-up activities, including the implementation of the Programme of Action. At the same time, a joint UNEP/Habitat working group was established in order to coordinate and integrate activities and preparations for the Global Conference. These activities and preparations were aimed at building the capacity of small island developing States to participate effectively in the Global Conference and its preparatory process and building awareness of the unique characteristics and special vulnerabilities of these States.

144. Immediately following the Global Conference, a joint UNEP/Habitat task force was convened with the primary objective of developing and implementing a programmatic approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States. The Executive Director of UNEP has committed that organization to incorporating relevant aspects of the Programme of Action within its work programme. The specific roles of the task force are (a) generation of project/programme initiatives in support of the Programme of Action; (b) coordination and integration of UNEP and Habitat projects/programmes in

support of the Programme of Action; (c) policy/strategy development for UNEP and Habitat interventions in relevant meetings and forums; and (d) to act as a reporting mechanism as required.

B. Funds and programmes

1. United Nations Development Programme

145. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries has been designated to coordinate within UNDP the follow-up on the implementation of the Programme of Action. In this capacity, the Unit will work closely with the various bureaux at UNDP headquarters and the UNDP country offices responsible for small island developing States to ensure effective follow-up activities.

2. United Nations Population Fund

146. No new institutional arrangements are envisaged by UNFPA to implement the Programme of Action within those areas relevant to its mandate.

3. United Nations Children's Fund

147. UNICEF will utilize its existing institutional arrangements to support the implementation of the Programme of Action. In addition, a focal point has been established within the Environment Unit to facilitate the coordination of activities regarding small island developing States. These arrangements reflect the organization's response to Agenda 21, which has parallels with the Programme of Action.

4. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

148. UNDCP will implement the Programme of Action through its existing institutional arrangements.

C. Specialized agencies

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

149. The Council of FAO recently endorsed a proposal to decentralize the activities and structure of the organization and, in this context, decided to establish subregional offices for the Caribbean and South Pacific regions in order better to assist small island developing States.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

150. Prior to the Global Conference, the Director-General established a focal point for relations with small island States within the Bureau for External Relations. This focal point will be responsible for facilitating relations with small island developing States in all matters relating to follow-up to the Global Conference. In addition, as part of his overall coordination responsibility for UNCED follow-up, the Director of the Bureau for Coordination of Environmental Programmes will also be responsible for follow-up to the Global Conference in terms of ensuring effective internal and inter-agency programme coordination.

3. World Health Organization

151. The WHO global strategy and related action plan are being implemented by WHO through its headquarters and regional offices. The American and western Pacific regional offices are the main offices dealing at an operational level with small island developing States because of their proximity to the Caribbean and South Pacific regions respectively. The western Pacific office recently established an environmental health unit in Fiji, which will focus on the problems faced by the Pacific island countries. WHO offices in Africa, south-east Asia and the eastern Mediterranean will also be involved in supporting those small island developing States that fall within their area of operations. Also, a new Division for Emergency and Humanitarian Action has been established, which is intended to strengthen the capabilities of WHO in the area of natural and environmental disasters.

4. World Bank

152. The World Bank's existing institutional arrangements can accommodate and support the implementation of the Programme of Action.

5. International Monetary Fund

153. IMF envisages no special institutional arrangements because the substantive areas of the Programme of Action lie outside its immediate mandate.

6. International Civil Aviation Organization

154. ICAO will support the implementation of the Programme of Action through its existing institutional arrangements.

7. International Telecommunication Union

155. The development of technical assistance programmes for small island developing States is carried out by the Telecommunication Development Bureau, which is the development arm of ITU. The Bureau has regional and subregional

offices in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa. The Caribbean region will be served by the Barbados area office, while the Pacific will be served by the area office at Jakarta. Activities will be coordinated at ITU headquarters at Geneva where a focal point on small island developing States will be established.

8. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

156. No particular arrangements are foreseen in GATT for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

9. International Maritime Organization

157. Efforts are being made to establish regional maritime coordination networks in eastern and southern Africa, and in the South Pacific. These networks, if established, would benefit a number of small island developing States.

10. World Meteorological Organization

158. WMO's institutional arrangements to support the implementation of the Programme of Action are included, to the extent possible, within its existing scientific and technical programmes. The WMO focal point for the implementation of the Programme of Action is the Director of the World Weather Watch Department.

11. World Intellectual Property Organization

159. WIPO will utilize its existing institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Programme of Action.

12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

160. UNIDO will implement the Programme of Action within its existing institutional arrangements.

D. Conclusions

161. The majority of the organizations of the United Nations system indicated in their replies that they would seek to implement the Programme of Action within their existing institutional arrangements. Several of these organizations have, however, established focal points and/or task forces for the implementation of the Programme of Action. In one case, FAO has taken the decision to establish subregional offices for the Caribbean and the South Pacific regions in order to decentralize the relevant activities of the organization relating to small island developing States, and thereby enable the organization better to respond to their needs while implementing the Programme of Action. In a similar vein,

IMO has stated that it is considering establishing regional maritime networks in eastern and southern Africa, and in the South Pacific.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

A. Plans and programmes

1. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

162. Regional and subregional cooperation has been recognized as an important part of the Programme of Action. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has undertaken the following specific actions to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action.

(a) Natural and environmental disasters

163. Activities include a roving seminar on comprehensive flood loss prevention and management, held at Suva from 17 to 21 June 1994 and in Samoa from 23 to 24 June 1994. An advisory/consultancy mission on forecasting, preparedness and other operational measures for water-related natural disaster reduction is scheduled to be held in Tonga in September/October 1994. Future activities include small island countries being included in some of the project proposals that are under formulation for donor funding. In addition, advisory services on water resources development and management and on water-related natural disaster reduction can be made readily available to small island developing States upon request.

(b) Coastal and marine resources

164. The work programme related to small island developing States will entail collaboratory activities related to the role of geosciences in sustainable development and related resource development issues. The secretariat will cooperate closely with the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission and the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation and promote joint programmes and extend advisory services within the budgetary allocations provided for during the biennium 1994-1995. Efforts will also be made to secure extrabudgetary funding for projects related to coastal zone management and natural and environmental disaster management of small island developing States. In order to establish close coordination, the secretariat will endeavour to attend the annual sessions as well as technical advisory group meetings of the bodies mentioned above.

165. A number of the small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region have identified non-living marine resources along coastal zones as well as deep-sea minerals, including manganese nodules containing copper, cobalt and nickel. The ESCAP secretariat has been actively involved in assisting its member States including these States, in the realization of their rights and obligations related to non-living resource exploitation, including deep seabed mining under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. 8/ The secretariat will

endeavour to formulate projects that will assist small island developing States in ratifying the Convention, which will enter into force on 16 November 1994. Such activities will be coordinated with the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters.

(c) Tourism resources

166. Special efforts are being made to assist Pacific island countries in strengthening national capabilities to create a favourable investment climate in the tourism sector. These include studies on sustainable tourism development in Pacific island countries and on tourism investment (Samoa and Vanuatu) as well as a feasibility study on the Arona Valley tourism development projects (Papua New Guinea). A workshop on integrated tourism planning in Pacific island countries is planned to be held at Port Vila in early 1995. A project proposal is under preparation for bilateral extrabudgetary funding in 1995 to carry out a study on land tenure issues related to tourism development in Pacific island countries. At the request of the Government, the secretariat rendered, in June 1994, advisory services on resort lease agreements to Maldives.

(d) National institutions and administrative capacity

167. The ESCAP secretariat is developing several projects in this area to benefit small island developing States, including a proposal for subregional training workshops on economic stabilization, liberalization and deregulation in the Pacific. A second project on enhancing cooperation in trade and investment between Pacific island countries and the economies of east and south-east Asia in the 1990s will address various priority areas, including marine, land, tourism and biodiversity resources. These two projects will emphasize the fragile ecology of island countries and the importance of integrating environmental considerations in the economic decision-making process.

(e) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

168. In order to promote regional and subregional capacities of small island developing States, ESCAP's mechanisms include advisory services, human resource development through training, research and studies, and transfer of technology. A major thrust of the capacity-building activities is to assist small island developing States in the development of institutions and legislation, pollution control, national strategies on combating the adverse impact of global climate change, coastal environmental management, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, sustainable development and management of natural resources, small and medium-scale industry, transport infrastructure, trade and investment and coastal tourism.

(f) Transport and communications

169. Since 1991, the ESCAP secretariat has been implementing a project on performance improvement of inter-island shipping. Under the first phase of the project, an in-depth study on the South Pacific island shipping industry was undertaken, which identified the existing problems in management, infrastructure, viability, services available and age and condition of the fleet. The second phase of the project involved formulating recommendations on

remedial measures for overcoming these problems. The third phase of the project focuses on the efficient development and operation of port and inter-island shipping services in the Pacific subregion through computer applications and regional cooperation in the provision of inter-island shipping services.

170. The ESCAP secretariat is also preparing a project proposal on shipping manpower resources, with the aim of identifying the requirements for and availability of trained seafarers, training needs, issues relating to standards and qualifications for certification. Another project proposal on shipping policy is under preparation which will identify and examine issues relating to coastal and international shipping development policies, such as cabotage, national fleets and financing of ship acquisition. The secretariat's maritime policy planning model is also being enhanced so that it can be utilized to undertake studies on inter-island shipping.

(g) Science and technology

171. The predominantly rural character of most small island developing States puts small and medium-scale industries in an important position because they tend to cater for the needs of the rural population and provide employment to local people. The industries concerned are usually agro-based and food-processing industries, including fishery industries. However, in most island developing economies there is little or no institutional infrastructure for the dissemination of environmentally friendly technological knowledge to support production of those industries. Information is required that would enable policy-makers and businesses to (a) assess the environmental impact of fishery practices on marine culture and use environmentally sound fishing technologies; (b) avoid using outdated and inappropriate land-based food-processing technologies in order to minimize the use of synthetic chemicals, reduce waste generation and remove pollutants from the terrestrial environment, since about 70 per cent of marine pollution comes from sources on land; and (c) understand the economic benefits and technical requirements of using small-scale, decentralized power sources such as solar photovoltaic systems or wind energy systems to provide "clean" energy to the small and medium-sized enterprises of island States.

172. The ESCAP secretariat will intensify its research and policy activities, advisory services, training programmes and information networking for the benefit of small island developing States. Project activities are planned in the following areas: (a) Identification of national needs and capabilities for acquiring and developing environmentally friendly technologies (use of technology atlas methodologies and manual on technology transfer); (b) management of information systems for access by small and medium-sized enterprises to environmentally sound technologies; (c) cooperative research, development and demonstration on non-conventional and renewable sources of energy (inclusion of island developing States in projects on solar photovoltaic systems) and on biotechnology and genetic engineering for the improvement of agricultural productivity on a sustainable basis.

173. Within the context of the action programme on investment-related technology transfer, initiatives will be taken to strengthen science and technology infrastructure and endogenous capacities, as well as technology transfer capabilities of small island developing States. Efforts will also be made to promote inter-agency cooperation in conducting the proposed activities through the exchange of information on environmentally sound technologies and training programmes.

(h) Human resource development

174. The ESCAP secretariat has developed two project proposals for extrabudgetary bilateral funding in 1995, one on the enhancement of national capabilities for exports of processed food products in selected island developing and least developed countries in the ESCAP region and the other on strengthening regional economic cooperation in mutually supportive trade and environment regimes. The first project seeks to enhance the export earning abilities of island developing countries in value-added food products in order to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Special emphasis will be given to marine products as they are internationally competitive in those products. The project will assist in upgrading the quality of food products to fulfil international standards and will provide comprehensive information on product standards, including environment-related standards. The project will also identify new trading opportunities for participating countries, especially as a result of the recently concluded Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and trends in consumerism, such as "green consumerism". The target beneficiaries of the project will be agricultural and industrial entrepreneurs, as well as policy makers in these countries. It is also expected that the project will enhance trade and investment linkages with the more dynamic partners of the region, as well as lead to increased business opportunities for participating countries.

175. The objectives of the second project are to enhance regional economic cooperation through the strengthening of research capabilities in the formulation of trade policy for sustainable development. The project proposal was developed in response to the need for a better understanding and assessment of the interrelationships between environmental and trade policies in the region, as it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development through mutually supportive trade liberalization and environmental protection policies. The research work will involve the preparation of a study on trade and environment policy regimes and their interrelationships in island countries.

176. The ESCAP secretariat is implementing a project on population, environment dynamics, poverty and quality of life in Papua New Guinea. The main objective of the project is to investigate the impact of population growth and distribution on environment and sustainable development and investigate the relationships between demographic trends, resources and the environment with a view to broadening the appreciation of the Government, non-governmental organizations and communities regarding the interlinkages of various elements of the ecosystem with demographic variables.

177. The ESCAP secretariat will also conduct a basic demographic training course for small island developing countries with the objective of improving the

capability of these countries in analysing population census and survey data. This will improve the capacity of participating small island developing States to formulate, implement and expand population programmes with a view to enhancing the integration of population factors into their economic and social development planning processes.

178. Capacities are being developed at the subregional and national levels through training and the development of guidelines to assess the state of the environment. This would include the monitoring of environmental trends and the analysis of basic causes for unsustainable development. In addition, efforts are planned to promote the use of economic instruments, including fiscal and taxation measures and preferential tariffs, through advisory services, training programmes and the development of guidelines.

179. The implementation of the outcomes of the Global Conference will be discussed at a ministerial level conference on environment and development in Asia and the Pacific in November 1995. This conference and its preparatory meetings, particularly the subregional meeting in the South Pacific, will review the implementation of the Programme of Action and provide guidance towards future action in this regard.

2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

180. ECLAC's subregional headquarters for the Caribbean is in the process of reviewing the Programme of Action to identify ways in which it might follow up proposals and recommendations contained in that document. The following proposed and ongoing activities do, however, address the recommendations of the Programme of Action.

(a) Coastal and marine resources

181. ECLAC is contributing to Small Island Oceanography, a publication of the Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission, as well as to a background paper on cost-benefit analysis of environmental protection measures within a coastal zone management framework.

(b) Energy resources

182. The Caribbean Council for Science and Technology has proposed a number of activities on renewable energy including the holding of a regional seminar on renewable energy technologies to bring together policy and decision makers and the developers and users of renewable technologies. The Council has also developed linkages with regional and international organizations working in this field.

(c) Tourism resources

183. ECLAC and several regional institutions have developed a Caribbean strategy on environmental health and sustainable tourism. An ECLAC proposal for a code of conduct and environmental rating scheme for Caribbean hotels has been accepted by the Caribbean Hotel Association and is currently being implemented.

ECLAC is also preparing a textbook on sustainable tourism in small island countries.

(d) Biodiversity resources

184. ECLAC, in joint collaboration with the interim secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity and the Consortium of Caribbean Universities for Natural Resource Management, will be convening a meeting on the benefits and implications of the Convention.

(e) National institutions and administrative capacity

185. The objective of the environment and development programme element of the ECLAC Caribbean work programme is to strengthen the capabilities of member countries to incorporate environmental considerations into development planning. A project proposal on integrated environmental and economic information for decision-making in the Caribbean has been formulated and will be submitted for funding.

186. It is envisaged that ECLAC, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies and the National Resources Management Unit of OECS, will establish a regional applied research programme aimed at promoting the economic valuation of natural resources in the region. This programme will seek to develop and apply methodologies to value natural and environmental resources that are of special relevance to the Caribbean, and provide training in estimating effects and costs of environmental degradation, including those of pollution.

(f) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

187. Activities undertaken under the programme element relating to island developing countries will take into account the activities proposed in the Programme of Action. Its main objectives are to keep the special circumstances and needs of island developing countries under continuous review, and to assist member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) to obtain the support of the international community on relevant issues. This is proposed to be done by the organization and substantive servicing of an ad hoc expert group meeting on development issues affecting island developing countries, non-recurrent publications analysing development issues and provision of assistance to member countries of CDCC, at their request.

188. The objectives of the work programme element dealing with technical support to the integration efforts of OECS are proposed to be carried out by the provision of advisory services through the OECS secretariat to member States in priority areas of the integration process. This activity will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

189. In view of the large number of information projects and programmes initiated by the United Nations, ECLAC and UNEP are considering the organization of an inter-agency meeting on information. The objective is to enhance collaboration in the implementation of environmental information projects and programmes.

190. Memorandums of understanding have been negotiated between the ECLAC Caribbean office and UNEP and CARICOM respectively, setting out a wide range of joint programmes. It is envisaged that ECLAC will participate in the quarterly consultative meeting of environmental organizations organized by the Caribbean Development Bank.

(g) Science and technology

191. The Caribbean Council for Science and Technology assists member countries in their elaboration of science and technology policy, and in increasing national science and technology capacities. The Council has proposed the development of a regional database of technology services to develop expertise in technology assessment.

(h) Human resource development

192. The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will execute a UNFPA-funded project on the integration of population policies into development planning in the Caribbean subregion. Under the women in development programme element, operational activities will include technical support for a regional project on education, training and employment for teenage mothers in the Caribbean. The Caribbean Council for Science and Technology fosters professional development for scientific personnel through a variety of mechanisms, including work exchanges. Discussions have been held with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to strengthen training aspects of ECLAC's anticipated programmes, as well as on the possibility of establishing a joint ECLAC/UNITAR presence at ECLAC's Caribbean office. ECLAC is involved in plans to strengthen environmental and sustainable development training at the University of the West Indies, the University of the Netherlands Antilles and the Consortium of Caribbean Universities for Natural Resource Management.

3. Economic Commission for Africa

193. A number of the programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) already respond to elements of the Programme of Action. These programmes are summarized below.

(a) Poverty alleviation through sustainable development

194. Relevant activities include those under environment and development in Africa dealing with African strategies for Agenda 21. These activities focus on capacity-building and the promotion of ocean and coastal environmental resource accounting.

(b) Trade, regional cooperation and integration

195. The programme activities of the Multinational Programming Operational Centres (MULPOCs) are relevant. The Yaoundé MULPOC has carried out a study on the integration of Sao Tome and Principe in the central African subregion. ECA is involved in an exploratory exercise with the Indian Ocean Commission for the

preparation of a master plan for the development of marine resources, transport and communications, human settlements and trade. A similar exercise is envisaged for Cape Verde.

(c) Human resource development

196. Relevant activities include development administration and management as well as human resources development and social transformation. Advisory services and group training are offered to support capacity-building.

(d) Statistical and information systems development

197. ECA, in collaboration with the UNDP Sustainable Development Network and through its project on Capacity-building for Electronic Communications in Africa, is assisting small island developing States in the region in building a sustainable electronic data network for the maintenance of a systematic database for planning and decision-making.

(e) Natural resources and energy development

198. Two relevant activities involve marine affairs, which covers the development of the non-living resources of the sea, and the promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. 8/

(f) Infrastructural and structural transformation

199. Activities of this subprogramme deal with transport, communications, tourism, industrial development and science and technology. It provides the framework of the implementation of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa as well as the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

(g) Women in development

200. Activities in this area focus on the economic empowerment of women through stimulating and consolidating the entrepreneurship spirit of African women and providing increased access to resources, in both the formal and informal sectors.

4. Economic Commission for Europe

201. In support of the Programme of Action, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will continue to promote economic cooperation in the Mediterranean where its two island members, Cyprus and Malta, are located. ECE's subsidiary bodies will continue to identify areas of relevance to small island developing States, particularly in the field of transport and environment, for economic cooperation in the Mediterranean.

202. The ECE guidelines on ecosystem-based water management, adopted in 1993, are intended to assist countries, including the island States in the Mediterranean region, in their efforts towards the protection and amelioration

of ecosystems. In addition, under a joint ECE/UNEP project, which ECE is executing, guidelines are being elaborated on integrated environmental management in countries in transition, including Mediterranean member States.

203. Other cooperative efforts focused on selected water problems in islands and coastal areas with special regard to desalination and groundwater, urban design and architecture. The 1991 European Red List of Globally Threatened Animals and Plants took special account of existing genetic resources and rare animal and plant species of islands to enhance the implementation of conservation measures. The ECE Committee on Human Settlements is organizing meetings on tourism through its experts on human settlements problems in southern Europe. At a meeting of experts held in Cyprus in June 1994, the issue of sustainable tourism development in the Mediterranean region was discussed. The conclusions reached at that meeting are of particular relevance to the small island developing States in the Mediterranean region.

B. Institutional arrangements

1. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

204. A mechanism for consultation and pooling of limited resources through regional cooperation between United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral donors and international organizations already exists in Asia and the Pacific through the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. In June 1994, the Inter-agency Committee considered the outcome of the Global Conference and decided that it would facilitate the coordination and implementation of the Programme of Action as requested in paragraph 132 of the Programme of Action. In this connection, it was agreed that the Inter-agency Committee working group would review the priority areas of the Programme of Action and identify projects for joint implementation by the Committee members.

205. ESCAP has also set up a special body on Pacific island States to facilitate ongoing consultations with those States. The implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference will be an agenda item for discussion during its next session.

206. ESCAP has established the ESCAP/Pacific Operations Centre at Port Vila with a small compliment of core staff. The professional expertise of ESCAP is made available to the small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region through that Centre. The Centre, as well as various substantive divisions of ESCAP, also cooperates with other South Pacific regional organizations in the delivery of its programmes, including the South Pacific Forum, the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the University of the South Pacific, the Pacific Islands Development Programme and the Tourism Council of the South Pacific. Efforts are being made to further strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Operations Centre to provide technical assistance to the member countries.

2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

207. ECLAC's activities in relation to small island developing States involve its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago, and the programme of work of the Natural Resources and Energy Division.

208. ECLAC subregional headquarters is responsible for guiding and promoting the economic and social development of those Caribbean countries that are members of CDCC, consisting largely of small island developing States. The office is also the secretariat to the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology. Issues relating to island developing countries have been accorded a high priority on the work programme of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, as reflected in the inclusion of a programme element in the 1994-1995 work programme dealing specifically with island development country issues.

3. Economic Commission for Africa

209. In an effort to implement the Programme of Action with immediate effect, ECA will endeavour to implement some of its proposed actions within ongoing programmes and existing resources. However, additional resources will be needed in two areas, namely, the provision of advisory services and data collection missions, and training seminars and workshops. Additional resources will also be needed for coordination, including consultancies and participation in related meetings organized by the United Nations Secretariat in New York, and between United Nations organizations at the regional and subregional levels.

4. Economic Commission for Europe

210. ECE's existing institutional arrangements can support and accommodate activities to implement the Programme of Action.

C. Conclusions

211. ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and ECE have reported that they have all undertaken a number of specific actions to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action. In none of the cases is the response comprehensive. All four regional commissions have stated that they are all still in the process of reviewing its relevant recommendations. Thus, the information included in this section of the report should be seen as representative only of the initial response by those bodies in their efforts to implement the Programme of Action. With regards to institutional arrangements, all four regional commissions have indicated that existing institutional arrangements are being used to support and accommodate their activities geared to the implementation of the Programme of Action. The one variation on this is ESCAP which, in addition to its existing Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, has established a special body on Pacific island States to facilitate ongoing consultations with those States.

Notes

1/ A/CONF.167/9, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ A/CONF.167/4.

3/ A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1, vol. I and vol. I/Corr.1, resolution 1, annex II.

4/ See E/CN.17/1994/12, annex.

5/ See A/CONF.151/16.

6/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 15, No. 102.

7/ See A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1.

8/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

ANNEX

List of organizations that responded to the request for inputs to the present report

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
3. World Health Organization
4. World Bank
5. International Monetary Fund
6. International Civil Aviation Organization
7. Universal Postal Union
8. World Meterological Organization
9. International Telecommunication Union
10. International Maritime Organization
11. World Intellectual Property Organization
12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization
13. International Atomic Energy Agency
14. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
16. United Nations Environment Programme
17. United Nations Children's Fund
18. United Nations Development Programme
19. World Food Programme
20. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
21. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
22. United Nations Population Fund
23. United Nations International Drug Control Programme
24. Economic Commission for Europe
25. Economic Commission for Africa
26. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
27. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean